A Season of Music

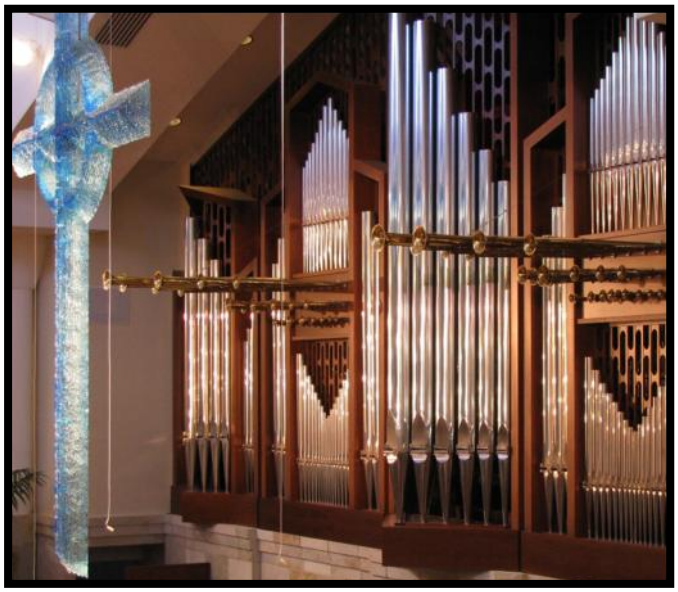
at First Presbyterian Church of Naples 2026-2027

















QPERA NAPLES

Voices of Naples

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
EX CORDE ECCLESIAE
VERITATIS SPLENDOR
MMIII





Events are at the church: 250 6th Street South, Naples — 239-262-1311 — www.fpcnaples.org.
Admission, except as listed, is freewill offering.

A Season of Music

First Presbyterian Church of Naples



One of the constants at First Presbyterian Church is quality music. It is my mission to bring the best out of the Chancel Choir each week and to coax beautiful and exciting melodies from the Ruffatti organ and Blüthner piano. Our concert series is held to the same standard. This year A Season of Music will have some familiar artists and some incredible guests.

We will highlight the mighty Ruffatti with three incredible organists. Aaron David Miller, a well-known improviser and composer from House of Hope Presbyterian in St. Paul, Minnesota, will open our concert season with a special Friday night concert. Internationally acclaimed organist and audience favorite, Hector Olivera, returns to Naples for a Sunday afternoon of incredible organ music. Finally, German organist, Felix Hell, will be joined by trumpeter, Mary Bowden, in an afternoon of music for organ and trumpet. Be sure to mark your calendars for these three amazing musical events, showcasing Naples' only Ruffatti organ.

We host Opera Naples for the well-know Purcell opera, *Dido and Aeneas* in two performances. Another favorite ensemble, Astralis Chamber Ensemble, will present a spellbinding concert called "The Bach Legacy." Naples hometown talent will be featured in concerts by the Voices of Naples, our very own Chancel Choir and, as always, I will highlight the Ruffatti in my six Lenten organ concerts.

Please mark your calendars today. I trust you will find something that appeals to you and I encourage you to bring a friend. Concerts are a great way to introduce people to our church. Our concerts are free of charge, except where noted. I invite you to help continue the legacy of great music at First Presbyterian Church of Naples. Please consider sending a donation today to A Season of Music. If you are interested in underwriting one of our concerts, please contact me at the church. Through these concerts we will reach out to our community and beckon people into our beautiful church. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Brice Gerlach

Dr. Brice Gerlach
Director of Music Ministries
briceg@fpcnaples.org

Aaron David Miller, Organ

Friday, November 6, 2026
7:00 p.m.



Aaron David Miller is a renowned organ improviser having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the country. Dr. Miller's performances have been heard on Pipe Dreams and numerous television programs. His orchestra works have been performed by such ensembles as the Seattle Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Zurich Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Recent compositions include works for Yale University and a Christmas recording by the Bach Chamber Players of St. Paul, MN. Dr. Miller was one of the featured artists at the National AGO convention held in Houston, TX in 2016. In addition to many performance prizes, Dr. Miller was recipient of the 2004 Hellenikon Idyllion Prize for Composition, Athens, Greece. He is Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. His concert will feature works by Bach, Weaver, Gigout and improvising.

Voices of Naples with Ave Maria University Concert & Chamber Choirs *Generations of Song*

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*
Dr. Taylor Ferranti, *conductor*
Aaron Powers, *accompanist*
Sunday, November 15, 2026
4:00 p.m.
Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door.
To order, call 239.293.0645.

Voices of Naples, a community chorus led by Dr. Brice Gerlach will be joined by Ave Maria University's Concert and Chamber Choirs in a concert called *Generations of Song*. Dr. Gerlach is Artist in Residence at Ave Maria University where he teaches organ, conducting and conducts the Chamber Choir. He works closely with Dr. Taylor Ferranti and is thrilled to have the AMU choirs participate in this concert alongside the Voices of Naples. Each choir will be featured separately as well as combine into one large choir for your listening pleasure.

Works will include *Domine fili unigenite* from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, *Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal, He Watching Over Israel,* Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth,* and some popular favorites. Get your tickets soon. Order by calling the number above.

Chancel Choir Christmas Concert

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*
Sunday, December 6, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Experience the hope and joy of rediscovering the miracle and wonder of Christmas as told through beautiful and cherished music of the season. Christmas-time is filled with great traditions and many of them center on the music of the season. Our annual concert showcases the incredible talent of First Presbyterian Church of Naples. The program will feature the soloists and choir singing Christmas favorites as well as an audience sing-a-long of well-known carols accompanied by a professional chamber orchestra.

The Chancel Choir will sing several Christmas anthems including *Candlelight Carol* by Rutter, *Night of Silence* by Daniel Kantor, and a beautiful arrangement of *Silent Night* by Dan Forrest.

Sing some of your favorite traditional carols such as *O Come All Ye Faithful, The First Noel* and *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.* Come enjoy a beautiful concert with some of the most traditional and well-loved Christmas songs ever composed.



Astralis Chamber Ensemble

The Bach Legacy

Sunday, January 24, 2027
4:00 p.m.



The award-winning musicians of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble have been described as "scary good" and "truly riveting." These award-winning musicians represent decades of experience performing at many of the world's major venues and notable concert series. With instrument pairings that are unique worldwide, the ensemble has been selected for the dedication of many new chamber works and has expanded the repertoire available through commissions and arrangements.

Angela Massey (flute), Seeun Baek (violin), Edward Luengo (cello), and Alexandra Dunbar (harpsichord) present "The Bach Legacy." Johann Sebastian Bach is widely regarded as one of the most influential composers in history. The program will feature his compositions along with works by his sons, JCF Bach, CPE Bach, and JC Bach. Join us for a brilliant program of music with the Astralis Chamber Ensemble.

Opera Naples

presents

Dido and Aeneas

by **Henry Purcell**

with

Naples Festival Orchestra

Ramón Tebar, conductor

Saturday, January 30, 2027 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 31, 2027 3:00 p.m.
Tickets: www.operanaples.org

Opera Naples is an artistic powerhouse, dedicated to presenting high-quality opera productions and concerts featuring prominent international, national and regional performers and directors.

Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* is a timeless masterpiece of love, duty and heartbreak, telling the tragic story of Queen Dido's passionate romance with the Trojan hero Aeneas. Filled with hauntingly beautiful music—including the unforgettable "Dido's Lament"—this powerful opera is an emotionally captivating experience that has moved audiences for centuries. Sung in English with English subtitles. Tickets: $39-$119.

Felix Hell, Organ
Mary Bowden, Trumpet

Sunday, February 28, 2027
4:00 p.m.

Felix Hell is known for his diverse and innovative programming, drawing upon a repertoire encompassing five centuries. A native of Germany, Felix Hell is one of the most sought after concert organists in the world. He has been featured as a recitalist and concerto soloist in more than 850 concerts throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. *The American Organist* raved that he "sets standards that older and honored players would struggle to equal."

Classical trumpeter Mary Elizabeth Bowden is a highly in-demand soloist, praised for her "splendid, brilliant" playing (*Gramophone Magazine*) and her "pure, refined, and warm" tone (*American Record Guide)*. A Gold Medal Global Music Award Winner, Opus Klassik Nominee, and Yamaha Performing Artist, Bowden works diligently to establish a new repertoire for the trumpet through creative, collaborative commissioning projects and award-winning albums.



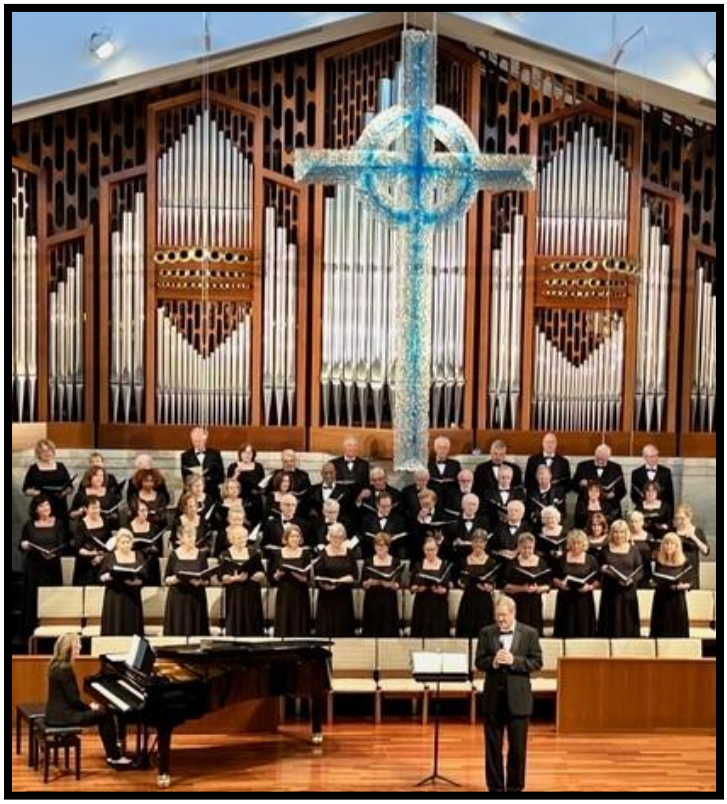


Voices of Naples
Singing for Scholarships

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*
Aaron Powers, *accompanist*
Sunday, March 7, 2027
4:00 p.m.
Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door.
To order, call 239.293.0645.

The Voices of Naples will present their annual Singing for Scholarships concert. The afternoon will consist of music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Maurice Duruflé, and George Gershwin.

During this afternoon of choral music, past scholarship winners will perform solos as a way of thanking the community that helped to support their musical education. When you come to the concert, know that you are helping VON in their mission to support young musicians. Get your tickets today!



Hector Olivera, Organ

Sunday, March 21, 2027
4:00 p.m.



Hector Olivera is a passionate, gifted, and unique musician, whose personal interpretations of both classical and popular music have amazed and delighted audiences around the world.

He has performed as guest soloist with many orchestras, including the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Fort Wayne Symphony, the Dover-New Philadelphia Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Amsterdam Baroque Ensemble, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Pasadena Symphony (for whom he produced a limited Gold CD edition of Saint Saëns' Symphony No. 3).

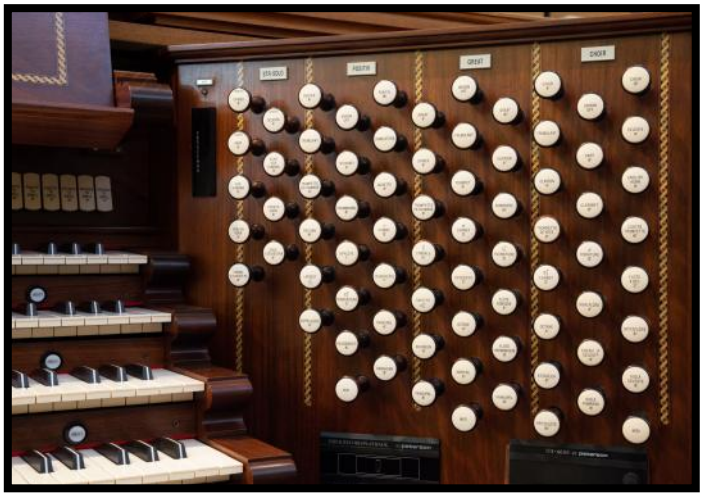
Although he is most famous for his prodigious technical proficiency, Hector Olivera's amazing effect on audiences has made many of the most sophisticated and demanding organ aficionados claim that Hector Olivera is one of the greatest organists in the world today.

Lenten Organ Concerts

Wednesdays, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.
February 17, 24, 2027
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2027

The spectacular Ruffatti pipe organ is featured in six Lenten organ recitals offered by our Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Brice Gerlach. In these informal concerts Brice takes the time to explain some of the mechanical workings of the organ and offers some musical insights about the pieces on the program. Each concert opens with a piece that highlights the magnificent horizontal trumpets protruding from the front of the organ case. A work by J.S. Bach is always featured and arrangements of Lenten hymn tunes are presented, allowing for some of the diverse solo stops and softer sounds of the organ to be heard. The concerts will end with a rousing toccata, allowing the audience to hear the full power of the organ.

After the recital, the audience is invited to the console to ask questions and see the beautiful woodwork and craftsmanship of the Ruffatti. Tours of the pipe chambers are offered each week. These concerts are very popular and we hope that you will attend to one or all of them and bring a friend. Brice is an evangelist for the organ and makes these short concerts educational, exciting and entertaining.



Special Events

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
With the Saint Andrew's Society of Southwest Florida & The Harp & Thistle Pipe Band.

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 26, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
A service for those seeking comfort during what can be a difficult time of year.

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2026
at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Our Family Service at 5:00 p.m. is designed for families with young children, but all ages are welcome. The traditional service at 7:00 p.m. is a Candlelight Service with readings and carols. Special music begins 30 minutes prior to worship.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 10, 2027 at 12:00 p.m.
A service to begin the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 25, 2027 at 7:00 p.m.
Includes communion.

Good Friday

Friday, March 26, 2027 at 12:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 2027
7:30 a.m. Courtyard Service and
8:30 & 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Special music by the Naples Chamber Brass Quintet at the 8:30 and 10:15 a.m. services.



Musical Year at a Glance at First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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